



# DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## News Release

### Use Care With Untreated Water

(Farmington, Utah) – Water has been in the news lately with the possibility of floods, the need for personal safety precautions around swollen streams, and the potential breeding areas for mosquitoes in standing water. In addition to those concerns, Davis County Health Department officials remind everyone to play it safe with untreated water sources.

According to the director of the Davis County Health Department, Lewis Garrett, “The majority of Utahns understand they shouldn’t drink untreated water from rivers, reservoirs, and lakes, but, I’m concerned that many people, especially children, don’t realize that secondary tap water isn’t treated either. It, too, can be a source of bacteria and disease when used inappropriately,” he said.

Sources of untreated water exist throughout the county. Many property owners buy and use secondary water to irrigate their lawns, gardens, and farms. “Secondary water is less expensive for its intended purpose of irrigation since it’s untreated,” said Delane McGarvey, director of the Environmental Health Services Division of the county health department. “Even without being treated, secondary water is harmless to vegetation and animals when used correctly.”

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People are encouraged to use soap and wash with water from a treated (or culinary) source after coming in contact with secondary water, said McGarvey. Also, adults should keep children from playing in sprinklers, wading pools or drinking from hoses if the source comes from secondary water.

“We really hope adults will explain to their children about the different water sources around their home and that secondary water isn’t for drinking or playing in,” continued McGarvey. One suggestion is for residents to paint all their outdoor secondary water taps red to distinguish them from any culinary water faucets located outside, he said. “That makes it easy for others to recognize which tap has secondary water so there’s no mistake when using it,” he said.

For more information about using untreated water, contact the county health department’s Environmental Health Services Division staff at (801) 451-3296.

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